

SIX MILL LEVY TO FUND THE MONTANA UNIVERSITY SYSTEM

It is the intent of the Montana Association of Counties to support Referendum 118 and the continuation of the six-mill levy as a critical funding source for the Montana university system

WHEREAS, every ten years since 1948, Montana voters have approved the six mill property levy to provide funding for the Montana university system; and

WHEREAS, the six mill levy is anticipated to raise approximately \$13 million annually for the next ten years to fund student and instructional services at the eleven campuses of the Montana university system; and

WHEREAS, renewing the six mill levy does not represent a new tax, does not change the tax rate or the tax base, and results in an impact to taxpayers of approximately \$12 for every \$100,000 of taxable value; and

WHEREAS, access to an affordable higher education system is a pathway to economic freedom and security for students, businesses, and communities; and,

WHEREAS, adequate funding for higher education in Montana is critical to maintain a university system where our students have the choice of attending the quality academic programs on the eleven campuses or by enrolling in the distance learning opportunities from their own homes, wherever they live in Montana; and

WHEREAS, Montana businesses seek an experienced, skilled workforce to compete in an economic environment and work closely with campuses across the state to develop education and training programs that can meet the needs of those businesses and provide our university system graduates with good paying jobs at home in our own communities:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Montana Association of Counties supports the continuation of the six-mill levy to provide the basis of state financial support for student and instructional services at the Montana university system.

SPONSOR: Districts 8, 9 & 12

RECOMMENDATION: Do Pass

PRIORITY: High

REFERRED TO: Resolutions Committee

ADOPTED: Annual Conference, Hamilton, MT September 24, 2008